

Aurora Passero - Solid Blossom

June 1 – July 2, 2023

Trøndelag Centre for Contemporary Art is delighted to present Aurora Passero's first solo exhibition in Trondheim. The exhibition, titled "Solid Blossom," comprises a series of new monumental textile works created using woven and dyed nylon, wool, and plaster. Drawing inspiration from a range of cultural forms, including popular and underground culture, craftsmanship, ethnology, and art history, Passero constructs spatial compositions within an abstract visual language. Through the exploration of compositional contrasts and balances between materials, colors, space, form, and content, Passero invites us to perceive and reconsider the hierarchy between different artistic genres.

The works in the exhibition "Solid Blossom" possess a distinct physical presence with architectural qualities, vibrant assertive colors, and tactile, sensory appearances. In addition to employing nylon thread and rope, Passero has experimented with incorporating elements of plaster and wool. Oyster shells, treated with plaster, have been placed as floor-based elements within the installations, their dry and hard surfaces contrasting with the voluminous soft textiles that occupy the rest of the space. These shells also underscore the works' processual relationship to water and their connection to nature.

The exhibition consists of a larger group of newly produced site-specific works, constructed using various structures composed of variations in thread thickness and spacing between the warp threads. The space is maximally utilized through the dimensions of the works, and the textiles are scaled and adapted to the two different ceiling heights. Sculptural considerations such as size, form, negative space, distance, and rhythm become relevant within these textile pieces. Some works feature few weft threads and are perceived as delicate and dissolvable, while others are tightly woven with a heavier and more "fleshy" character. By combining rectangular painterly panels mounted on or close to the walls with more sculptural and freely formed works, Passero establishes distinct dynamic installations at the intersection of textiles, painting, and sculpture.

The series of more compact works (Thistle, Solid Blossom, and Rapid Blossom) possess a bodily presence, displaying distinct tactile and organic forms, and are suspended from the ceiling using simple ropes. Associations such as protective armor, snakeskin, or a form of barrier between a vulnerable interior and a hard exterior can arise from these encounters. The texture and metallic color palette further emphasize connections to protection or armor, even though nylon cannot offer the same insulation as materials like leather or wool. Passero has experimented with the texture of these works by allowing the textiles to soak in large vessels of hot water, causing the threads to condense and separate upon contact. These condensations and gaps create a new interplay of

texture and surface, further enhanced by occasional daylight reflections that highlight the shimmering qualities of the material.

Passero explores elements of transformation, dynamics, and change in her artwork, establishing a relationship with the viewer's sensory experience. Her works embody a finely tuned presence that balances nature and culture, chance and structure, creating a tension between solidity and fragility. The "Solid" pieces represent the concrete and tangible, while the "Blossom" pieces convey growth and transformation.

Aurora Passero (b. 1984) resides and works in Oslo. She pursued her studies at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHiO), specializing in textiles, where she earned her master's degree in 2011. She has also studied at the Glasgow School of Art, Department of Sculpture and Environmental Art.

She has, among other things, exhibited solo shows such as "Crystal Set" at Galleri Haaken, "Silvery Actions" at Vigeland Museum, "Affections" at Kunstnernes Hus Foaje, "Liquid Territory" at Kraft in Bergen, "Ivory Tactics" at Kunstnerforbundet, and "Warrior Gloss" at Galleri Soft. She has also participated in numerous group exhibitions, including at Kunsthall Stavanger, Kunstnerforbundet, Stavanger Art Museum, Astrup Fearnley Museum, Lillehammer Art Museum, Vigeland Museum, Malmö Konsthall, and Haugar Vestfold Art Museum. Additionally, she has completed several public art projects, including ones for Jotun HQ in Sandefjord (2022), Danderyd Hospital in Stockholm (2020), the Norwegian Parliament in Oslo (2019), and the Norwegian Embassy in Rome (2012).

Aurora Passero has received support for the exhibition from the Arts Council Norway and Billedkunstnernes Vederlagsfond.

Text: Margrete Abelsen